



## The Kleerdex Commitment to a Responsible Environmental Policy

### Introduction

It seems that the term “green” is everywhere, with news of rising energy costs, concerns over global warming, and demands for environmental oversight and accountability. The good news is that every responsible manufacturer today recognizes the importance of optimizing its processes to protect resources, minimize waste, and reduce environmental impacts.

But for Kleerdex Company, manufacturer of KYDEX<sup>®</sup> thermoplastic sheet, the call to “green” is not a recent trend—it has been an essential part of our business philosophy for more than 20 years.

Not only is KYDEX<sup>®</sup> thermoplastic sheet 100% recyclable—making it an environmentally sound investment—it is also produced and sold in keeping with our commitment to and regard for safety, health, and environmental protection worldwide.

### Holding Our Facilities to the Highest Standards

Kleerdex manufacturing operations and R&D facilities are certified to the ISO 14001 environmental management system, as well as the ISO 9001:2000 quality management system. Our commitment to the ISO 14000 standards ensures that Kleerdex complies with applicable laws and regulations while minimizing how our operations affect the environment.

### Optimizing Our Manufacturing Processes

Kleerdex is always at work to limit the environmental impact of KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet manufacturing, by optimizing our processes to increase yield while reducing waste. For instance:

- In the mixing and extrusion processes, Kaizen Projects are constantly identified to continuously improve material yield, and computerized process control is used to reduce waste.
- In our internal recycling process, out-of-specification product is re-extruded and then reused as raw material.
- Waste flows and material recovery opportunities are routinely identified at all KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet manufacturing facilities.

### Protecting the Earth's Resources

- **Air:** By using clean energies, such as electricity, in the manufacture of KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet, insignificant particulate matter or carbon dioxide is emitted from the production process into the air.
- **Water:** During the manufacture of KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet, we limit the use of water for processing; in fact, water never comes in contact with the process. Where water is used, it is recycled internally, and no surface water is discharged.
- **Energy:** Raw material is shipped in rail cars to minimize fuel consumption. KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet requires lower processing temperatures when compared with most other polymers, which translates into lower energy consumption. High-efficiency motors and sophisticated temperature controls are used to reduce energy consumption. Finally, any heat that is produced in the manufacturing process is recycled to heat the manufacturing facility during the winter.

### Making a Smarter Product

KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet is a thermoplastic alloy made with product and environmental safety in mind. No heavy metals (cadmium, lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, etc.) are used in the manufacture of KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet. In addition, KYDEX<sup>®</sup> sheet is an alternative to other products, such as fiberglass with phenolic binders or HPL with phenolic and melamine resins containing formaldehyde.

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### Making a Smarter Product

KYDEX® sheet products are also made with reuse and recycling in mind. For instance, KYDEX® sheet uses RoHS compliant additives, which help to prolong its reprocessing life (or its ability to be recycled). The KYDEX® sheet products sold annually have approximately 20% recycled content, comprised of internally recycled product plus material from our post-industrial recycling program.

Modifiers increase the durability and lengthen the lifespan of KYDEX® sheet—making it a smart choice for high-impact applications where less need for replacement translates into less waste, fewer disposal issues, and better cost-effectiveness.

The durability of the product also means that customers can use thinner sheet, which reduces weight and in turn, the amount of fuel required for transportation. In addition, the ability to create custom colors using KYDEX® sheet means less need for paint or coatings containing VOCs.

### Using Smart Packaging

Post-manufacture, Kleerdex uses packaging that is biodegradable and or recycled. Our smart packaging is also designed to minimize weight per volume, to help reduce fuel consumption and the amount of packaging received by our customers.

### Reducing and Recycling in All Our Operations

Environmental care extends to Kleerdex Company's own operations—promoting responsible handling of all used materials in all of our offices and facilities. To reduce waste production:

- Office paper and corrugated cardboard are recycled.
- All metals are recycled. For instance, worn-out metal parts of machinery and equipment are reconditioned for reuse wherever possible.
- Used oils are picked up and converted to industrial fuel.
- Raw material containers are returned to vendors for reuse whenever possible.
- Our waste packaging stream is sent to an outside recycling source.
- Wood pallets are recycled and turned into garden mulch.
- High-efficiency mercury and fluorescent lamps are recycled.

### Educating Ourselves

Ongoing education is vital to our environmental policy. All Kleerdex employees receive annual environmental awareness training. Risk prevention and the protection of both individuals and the environment are also achieved through annual safety training, as well as through the comprehensive design review process that is integral to all materials we manufacture.

### **Kleerdex Company, LLC**

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Kleerdex Company produces KYDEX® thermoplastic sheet in keeping with our commitment to and regard for safety, health, and environmental protection worldwide. To learn more, speak with your KYDEX® sheet representative.